

RICC MINUTES

August 27, 2007

12 members were in attendance. Due to the Northwood disaster the previous evening, a few of the members who planned on attending were unable to.

Ramona Gunderson opened the meeting with introductions. Members shared information on upcoming trainings: *DD Case Management & Early Intervention Conference in Bismarck, October 2nd – 5th. Dr. McWilliams will be speaking at the preconference October 2nd and the morning of October 3rd. Special Needs Care Seat Training in Fargo through Meritcare. This will take place in September. It will have 20 participants and was filled right away. Several from Grand Forks will be attending. ABA training, October 5th, 2:00 to 4:00pm. This will be presented by Dr. Yeager. Safe Kids and Healthy Families September 11, 8:30 – 4:00. Child Care Resource and Referral will have an Autism training October 29th in East Grand Forks. Call their office and speak to Laura if you have any questions.*

Kristen Votava updated us on Right Track. They have had increased referrals. Agencies are working well and closely together so they are able to follow more children.

Copies of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) were handed out to members, (a draft of the QIP was reviewed at the last RICC meeting in May, 2007). The indicators and the statistics were reviewed along with the improvement activities that have started or will take place to assist with compliance in each area. Discussion on the QIP as an ongoing plan and the importance of this team to continue to be involved in the review of these plans took place. Ramona discussed ways of getting this information out to families that are involved in services. Kristen Votava, Technical Assistant Person, verified that all the QIP's are on the ndearlyintervention website and are easy to find.

Ramona with KIDS Infant Development Program reported that there are currently 12 staff employed. Since the merge from Human Services, 4 individuals have been hired, with our newest staff person starting August 1st. They continue to contract for Speech Pathology and Physical Therapy for

the children they see. She invited individuals to stop by anytime to see the office. The requirements for monitoring are becoming more familiar, and there are not so many changes taking place for staff, which has been nice due to the significant increase in referrals the past two months. Within the four counties that they serve, there has been a rise in the number of families referred in the Northern area. Diane Dorner, DDCM, mentioned that they have more families that are becoming foster families in that area. Ramona mentioned the regions and number of staff traveling to that area. Keith Gustafson is their new director through Northern Plains Special Education. He was able to attend a previous RICC meeting and will do so again when he can make it work.

Barb Kramer with Healthy Families said they are trying to have more women referred prenatally. This way they are able to stabilize the situation before the baby comes home. Research shows if they are referred prenatally, the results are much better. They serve Grand Forks and Nelson Counties.

Darcy Bohn stated the Down Syndrome Playgroup meets every 2 to 3 months. They are planning on having a fall picnic. The Buddy Walk will take place September 30th in The Grand Cities Mall.

Kristen Votava and Carol Johnson continue to be the state technical support. They work independently and their office space is at the Right Track office. They will offer trainings on different topics such as Early Literacy and Autism. You can find information on the ND Early Intervention website or contact Kristen at Kvotava@nd.gov

Diane Dorner also spoke about the DD Case Management & Early Intervention conference. She also mentioned a dentist from Northwood will be providing preventative dental care in the old Deaconess Hospital building a couple days a week. They will accept medical assistance. She wasn't sure when they would open as the recent tornado in Northwood may affect his practice.

Ann Grossbauer from Child Care Resource and Referral gave the members brochures. Her agency provides support and training for daycare providers who have kids with special needs. They have a training calendar. She stated Rural Health Network grants are due on October 15. They are trying

to fill gaps in services especially when children turn 18. You can call their office to be on the mailing list or go to [ND Childcare.org](http://NDChildcare.org)

Danielle from Public Health said they have grant funding for 2 more years and then will have to reapply. She can keep her clients up North but can't add new ones. She can support new clients by phone but she is unable to visit their homes.

Dora stated it was the first day of school.

Tiffani from Altru said the summer programs are finished. Kids Camp went well and was full. They will be doing their clinics in Ft. Totten and Belcourt.

Joan Karpenko, our experienced parent, spoke about the Spina Bifida support group that has been started. They have been meeting since May. They were excited to have a new family attend the last meeting. Also, a committee has been meeting on the all accessible playground. The goal is to raise \$200,000. Individuals and businesses can make a donation or also have the opportunity to purchase a piece of equipment. They will have bricks and or signs for recognition. They are working on a brochure to handout and also will have some kind of display in the Potato Bowl Parade on September 15th. The Mayor's office is planning on having a city wide Jeans Day for the playground.

Ramona notified the group Joan will also be the RICC coordinator for our region.

Ramona stated we are always looking for more parents to be a part of the committee. They should be parents of a child who is, or has been in Early Intervention.

The next meeting will be November 26, 11:30 to 1:30.

